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City of Boston / Kevin H. White, Mayor

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CONTACT:
Cindy Strousse, 725-3350

MAYOR WHITE ANNOUNCES COMMITTEE TO REVITALIZE COPLEY SQUARE

Mayor Kevin H. White today announced the formation of a special committee to serve as a public/private liaison for the renewal of the century-old Copley Square. The Copley Square Centennial Committee, Inc., has been created to focus on the Square's one hundredth birthday and use it as an opportunity to study Copley Square and its potential redesign.

Advocating public participation, the committee is made up of members from concerned public and private organizations. Officers and/or members of the executive committee are: Kenneth A. Himmel, senior vice-president of Urban Investment and Development Co., president ; Lawrence T. Perera, Esq., of Hemenway & Barnes, clerk; Elizabeth C. Whitman, executive director of the Women's Educational and Industrial Union, treasurer.

Also named are Katharine D. Kane, Deputy Mayor, City of Boston; Joseph W. O'Connor of New England Mutual Life; Anthony B. Casendino of the American Society of Landscape Architects; Russell A. Gaudreau, Jr., of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay; Lewis A. Carter, Jr., of Agnew, Carter, McCarthy, Inc.; William L. Boyan, Jr. of the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company; and Spencer M. Rice of Trinity Church.

"The purpose of the committee is to examine and improve upon Copley Square, one of the city's most important urban spaces," according to Mayor White. Open workshops are planned to involve community members in presentations and discussions concerning Copley Square specifically. A near capacity crowd joined speakers William H. Whyte and Sam Bass Warner, Jr. at the Committee's first public symposium -- GREAT PUBLIC PLACES -- held on July 27, 1983. Moderated by Katharine D. Kane with opening remarks by Kenneth A. Himmel, Whyte, social observer and author, addressed the issue of "Why Public Places Fail and Work." Warner, author and professor of history at Boston University, spoke on "A Perspective of Copley Square."

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Other symposiums are scheduled for September 14th and 29th.

Consultants to the committee are Thomas J. Piper, research affiliate at the M.I.T. Laboratory of Architects and Planning, and Gary Hack, principal investigator at M.I.T.

The project is funded through both public and private sources. The Boston Redevelopment Authority has submitted an application to the National Endowment for the Arts for a $100,000 grant which would fund the design competition to redesign Copley Square.

Other committee members include: Katherine Ahern of Hunneman & Co.; Kevin Ann Cartwright of the Back Bay Association; Kenneth C. Collison, Jr., of the St. Botolph Citizens' Committee; and Reverned James. W. Crawford of the Old South Church.

Also named are: John Doherty of the Boston Public Library; Rosalind E. Gorin of H.N. Gorin Associates, Inc.; Paul F. Hellmuth of the Museum of Fine Arts; David Hoffman of the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company; Tunney Lee, Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Capital Planning and Operations; Edward J. McCormack, Jr., of McCormack & Zimble; Robert R. McCoy of the Parks and Recreation Department; Ann Nemrow of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay; Bernard H. Pucker of the Newbury Street Art Galleries; Robert J. Ryan of Boston Redevelopment Authority; and Roger A. Saunders of the Saunders Hotel Company, Inc. Anthony Tappe of the Boston Society of Architects; Stella Trafford of Friends of the Public Garden; Alan Tremain of the Copley Plaza Hotel; William H. Wainwright of the Institute of Contemporary Art; and Joan Wood of the South End are also members of the Copley Square Centennial Committee.

The staff objective is to advise the Committee on technical issues relating to redevelopment and organized public participation, i.e. the workshops. In addition, subcommittees on activities, management and design meet on a regular basis and are also open to the public. The entire process is sponsored as part of an effort to understand and improve Copley Square.

The Copley Square Centennial Committee, Inc., is located at the John Hancock Tower, 200 Clarendon Street, Boston, MA 02116. For more information, call 536-2101.

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